



BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL - TAX FAIRNESS AD HOC COMMITTEE
SHARON BUSHOR CONFERENCE ROOM, GROUND FLOOR, CITY HALL OR
REMOTELY VIA ZOOM
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 30, 2026

1. Call to Order

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Members Present:

- Chair Councilor Ben Traverse
- Councilor Buddy Singh
- Councilor Carter Neubieser
- Councilor-Elect Laura Sanchez-Parkinson
- Deputy Chief of Staff Jen Monroe Zakaras

Staff Present:

- Nancy Stetson

Public Participants:

- Jonathan Chappel-Sokel

Chair Councilor Ben Traverse called the meeting to order at **12:06 PM**.

2. Agenda

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Subject

2.1. Motion to amend/adopt agenda

Meeting

March 30, 2026 - Tax Fairness Ad Hoc Committee - Monday, March 30, 2026, 12:00 PM, Sharon Bushor Conference Room, Ground Floor, City Hall OR remotely via Zoom

Category

2. Agenda

Department

Department of Finance and Administration

Type

Action
Procedural

Recommended Action Motion to adopt agenda.

2.1. Motion to amend/adopt agenda

Councilor Buddy Singh moved to approve the agenda.

Seconded by Councilor Carter Neubieser.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

3. Public Forum

3. Public Forum

Subject**3.1. PUBLIC FORUM - Verbal Comments**

Meeting

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Category

3. Public Forum

Department

Department of Finance and Administration

Type

Action
Procedural

3.1. PUBLIC FORUM - Verbal Comments

The public forum was opened at 12:08 PM.

Jonathan Chappel-Sokel (Board of Assessors, resident member) provided comments:

- Emphasized that tax fairness requires equitable property assessments.
- Urged strengthening the City Assessor's Office, including hiring a qualified assessor.
- Expressed appreciation for the bipartisan composition of the committee and encouraged nonpartisan solutions.

No additional public comments were made.

Public forum was closed.

4. Summary from Mayor's Tax Fairness Working Group

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Subject**4.1. Summary from Mayor's Tax Fairness Working Group**

Meeting

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Category

4. Summary from Mayor's Tax Fairness Working Group

Department

Department of Finance and Administration

Type

Information

Recommended Action

4.1. Summary from Mayor's Tax Fairness Working Group

Nancy Stetson presented an overview of the Mayor's Tax Fairness Working Group.

Key Points:

- The working group met 8 times and produced a report with five primary recommendations.
- Recommendations were developed through a voting process: support, oppose, or request further study.
- The group was directed to propose revenue-neutral reforms.

Major Recommendations:

1. Homestead Exemption (\$30,000-\$50,000 range)
2. Simplification of "Splinter Taxes"
3. Property Classification Adjustments

- 4. Municipal Property Transfer Tax
- 5. Income-Based Municipal Tax Adjustments

Additional Concepts Discussed:

- Municipal income tax
- Value-based tiered property tax rates
- Land value tax
- Affordable housing incentives

5. Discussion on Committee Priorities

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Subject	5.1. What initiative(s) does the Committee want to focus on?
Meeting	March 30, 2026 - Tax Fairness Ad Hoc Committee - Monday, March 30, 2026, 12:00 PM, Sharon Bushor Conference Room, Ground Floor, City Hall OR remotely via Zoom
Category	5. Discussion on Committee Priorities
Department	Department of Finance and Administration
Type	Discussion

Recommended Action

5.1. What initiative(s) does the Committee want to focus on?

Key themes:

- Potential charter change required for reforms; August deadline for Council action.
- Interest in further exploring the homestead exemption.
- Interest in second home classification and taxation.
- Recognition that property tax changes may not directly reduce rents.
- Exploration of dedicated revenue streams for housing, including transfer taxes and tourism-related taxes.

Subject	5.2. What additional information does the Committee need?
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Category	5. Discussion on Committee Priorities
Department	Department of Finance and Administration
Type	Discussion

Recommended Action

5.2. What additional information does the Committee need?

Next Steps

- Further analysis of homestead exemption options.
- Explore feasibility of second home taxation.
- Identify additional data needs.
- Evaluate proposals within timeline constraints.

6. Scheduling

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Subject	6.1. Scheduling for future meetings.
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Category	6. Scheduling
Department	Department of Finance and Administration
Type	Discussion
Recommended Action	
	6.1. Scheduling for future meetings.

7. Adjournment

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Subject	7.1. Motion to adjourn
Meeting	March 30, 2026 - Tax Fairness Ad Hoc Committee - Monday, March 30, 2026, 12:00 PM, Sharon Bushor Conference Room, Ground Floor, City Hall OR remotely via Zoom
Category	7. Adjournment
Department	Department of Finance and Administration
Type	Action Procedural
Recommended Action	Motion to adjourn.
	7.1. Motion to adjourn Meeting adjourned following discussion of next steps.